

4.0: Public Participation Opportunities

Ecology, the Port, and Everett Shipyard invite you to share your comments and participate in the cleanup in your community. As we work to meet our goals, we will evaluate whether this public participation process is successful. This section describes the public participation opportunities for this site.

Measuring Success

We want this public participation process to succeed. Success can be measured, at least in part, in the following ways:

- Number of written comments submitted that reflect understanding of the cleanup process and the site.
- Direct “in-person” feedback about the site cleanup or public participation processes, if public meetings are held.
- Periodic updates to this plan to reflect community concerns and responses.

If we are successful, this process will increase:

- Community awareness about plans for cleanup and opportunities for public involvement.
- Public participation throughout the cleanup.
- Community understanding regarding how their input will be considered in the decision-making process.

Activities and Information Sources

Ecology Contacts

Ecology is the lead contact for questions about the cleanup in your community. The Ecology staff identified in this section are familiar with the cleanup process and activities at the site. For more information about public involvement or about technical aspects of the cleanup, please contact the persons listed below.

For technical questions:

Hun Seak Park
Ecology Project Coordinator
WA State Dept. of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
Phone: 360-407-7189
E-mail: hpar461@ecy.wa.gov

For public involvement
questions or comments:

Sandra Caldwell
Public Involvement Specialist
WA State Dept. of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
Phone: (360) 407-7209
E-mail: saca461@ecy.wa.gov

Ecology's Webpage

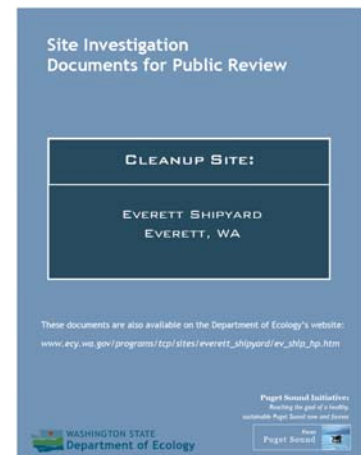
Ecology has created a webpage to provide convenient access to information. Documents such as the Agreed Order, draft reports, and cleanup plans, are posted as they are issued during the investigation and cleanup process. Visitors to the webpage can find out about public comment periods and meetings; download, print, and read information; and submit comments via e-mail. The webpage also provides links to detailed information about the MTCA cleanup process. The Everett Shipyard site webpage is available at the following address: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/everett_shipyard/ev_ship_hp.htm.

Information Centers/Document Repositories

Another comprehensive source of information about the Everett Shipyard site is the information center, or document repository. Two repositories provide access to the complete list of site-related documents. All Everett Shipyard investigation and cleanup activity reports will be kept in print at those two locations and will be available for your review. They can be requested on compact disk (CD) as well. Document repositories are updated before public comment periods to include the relevant documents for review. Documents remain at the repositories throughout the investigation and cleanup. For the Everett Shipyard site, the document repositories and their hours are:

Everett Public Library

- 2702 Hoyt Ave.
Everett, WA 98201
Phone: (425) 257-8010
Hours: Mon.-Wed. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Thurs.-Sat.
10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 1-5 p.m.
- **WA Department of Ecology Headquarters**
300 Desmond Dr. SE
Lacey, WA 98503
By appointment. Please contact Carol Dorn at
(360) 407-7224 or cesg461@ecy.wa.gov.



Look for Puget Sound Initiative document covers such as illustrated here.

Public Comment Periods

Public comment periods provide opportunities for you to review and comment on major documents, such as the Agreed Order, draft Public Participation Plan, draft RI/FS report, and draft CAP. The typical public comment period is 30 calendar days.

Notice of Public Comment Periods

Notices for each public comment period will be provided by local newspaper and by mail. These notices indicate the timeframe and subject of the comment period, and explain how you can submit your comments. For the Everett Shipyard site, newspaper notices will be posted in The Daily Herald.

Notices are also sent by regular mail to the local community and interested parties. Typically, the community includes all residential and business addresses within one-quarter mile of the site, as well as potentially interested parties such as public health entities, environmental groups, and business associations.

Fact Sheets

One common format for public comment notification is the fact sheet. Like the newspaper notice, fact sheets explain the timeframe and purpose of the comment period, but also provide background and a summary of the document under review. A fact sheet that explains the Agreed Order and this Public Participation Plan (included as Attachment A) has been prepared for the Everett Shipyard site. Future fact sheets will be prepared at key milestones in the cleanup process.

MTCA Site Register

Ecology produces an electronic newsletter called the MTCA Site Register. This semi-monthly publication provides updates of the cleanup activities occurring throughout the state, including public meeting dates, public comment periods, and cleanup-related reports. Individuals who would like to receive the MTCA Site Register can sign up three ways:

- Call (360) 407-6069
- Send an email request to ltho461@ecy.wa.gov
- Register on-line at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/pub_inv/pub_inv2.html

Mailing Lists

Ecology maintains both an e-mail and regular mail distribution list throughout the cleanup process. The list is created from carrier route delineations for addresses within one-quarter mile of the site, potentially interested parties, public meeting sign-in sheets, and requests made in person or by regular mail or e-mail. You may request to be on the mailing list by contacting Ecology's public involvement staff person listed earlier in this section.

Optional Public Meetings

A public meeting will be held during a comment period if requested by ten or more people, or if Ecology decides it would be useful. Public meetings provide additional opportunities to learn about the investigation or cleanup, and to enhance informed comment. If you are interested in a public meeting about the Everett Shipyard site, please contact the Ecology staff listed earlier in this section.

Submitting Comments

You may submit comments by regular mail or e-mail during public comment periods to the Ecology Project Manager and technical staff person listed earlier in this section.

Response to Comments

Ecology will review all comments submitted during public comment periods, and will modify documents as necessary. You will receive notice by regular mail or e-mail that Ecology has received your comments, along with an explanation about how the comments were addressed.

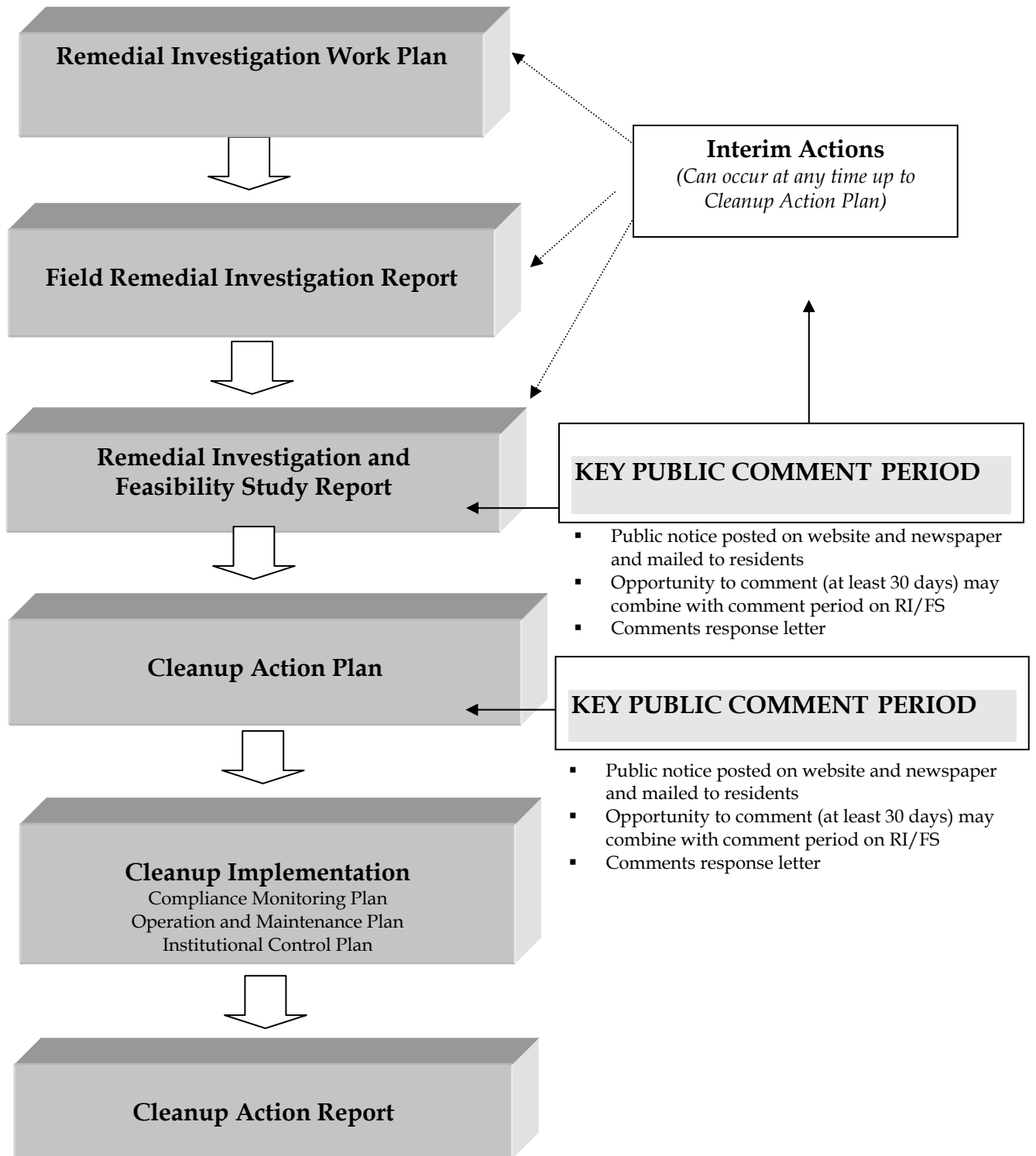
Other

Ecology, the Port, and Everett Shipyard are committed to the public participation process and will consider additional means for delivering information and receiving comments, including combining public comment periods for other actions (such as those associated with the State Environmental Policy Act).

Public Participation Grants

You may be eligible to apply for a Public Participation Grant from Ecology to provide additional public participation activities. Those additional activities will not reduce the scope of the activities defined by this plan. Activities conducted under this plan would coordinate with the additional activities defined under the grant.

Figure 2: Washington State Cleanup Process



Glossary

Cleanup: The implementation of a cleanup action or interim action.

Cleanup Action: Any remedial action except interim actions, taken at a site to eliminate, render less toxic, stabilize, contain, immobilize, isolate, treat, destroy, or remove a hazardous substance that complies with MTCA cleanup requirements, including but not limited to: compliance with cleanup standards; utilizing permanent solutions to the maximum extent practicable; and including adequate monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of the cleanup action.

Cleanup Action Plan: A document that selects the cleanup action and specifies cleanup standards and other requirements for a particular site. The cleanup action plan, which follows the remedial investigation/feasibility study report, is subject to a public comment period. After completion of a comment period on the cleanup action plan, Ecology finalizes the cleanup action plan.

Cleanup Level: The concentration (or amount) of a hazardous substance in soil, water, air, or sediment that protects human health and the environment under specified exposure conditions. Cleanup levels are part of a uniform standard established in state regulations, such as MTCA.

Cleanup Process: The process for identifying, investigating, and cleaning up hazardous waste sites.

Contaminant: Any hazardous substance that does not occur naturally or occurs at greater than natural background levels.

Feasibility Study: Provides identification and analysis of site cleanup alternatives and is usually completed within a year. Evaluates sufficient site information to enable the selection of a cleanup action. The entire Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study process takes about two years and is followed by the cleanup action plan.

Hazardous Site List: A list of ranked sites that require further remedial action. These sites are published in the Site Register.

Interim Action: Any remedial action that partially addresses the cleanup of a site. It is an action that is technically necessary to reduce a threat to human health or the environment by eliminating or substantially reducing one or more pathways for exposure to a hazardous substance at a facility; an action that corrects a problem that may become substantially worse or cost substantially more to address if the action is delayed; an action needed to provide for completion of a site hazard assessment, state remedial investigation/feasibility study, or design of a cleanup action.

Model Toxics Control Act: Refers to Chapter 70.105D RCW. Voters approved it in November 1988. The implementing regulation is found in Chapter 173-340 WAC.

Public Notice: At a minimum, adequate notice mailed to all persons who have made a timely request of Ecology and to persons residing in the potentially affected vicinity of the proposed action; mailed to appropriate news media; published in the local (city or county) newspaper of largest circulation; and the opportunity for interested persons to comment.

Public Participation Plan: A plan prepared under the authority of WAC 173-340-600 to encourage coordinated and effective public involvement tailored to the public's needs at a particular site.

Release: Any intentional or unintentional entry of any hazardous substance into the environment, including, but not limited to, the abandonment or disposal of containers of hazardous substances.

Remedial Action: Any action or expenditure consistent with MTCA to identify, eliminate, or minimize any threat posed by hazardous substances to human health or the environment, including any investigative and monitoring activities of any release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, and any health assessments or health effects studies conducted in order to determine the risk or potential risk to human health.

Remedial Investigation: Any remedial action that provides information on the extent and magnitude of contamination at a site. This usually takes 12 to 18 months and is followed by the feasibility study. The purpose of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study is to collect and develop sufficient site information to enable the selection of a cleanup action.